# Eternal Warrior:
# On Fighting and Dying for the Fatherland

**by Ernst Deuerlein**
**With a foreword by General of Artillery Friedrich von Cochenhausen**

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## Forward

Throughout the history of all civilized peoples, it has always been the case that the death of a soldier in battle was considered honorable; the deepest reason for this phenomenon lies in the fact that such a death always involved a sacrifice for others. In the fight for their homeland, warriors gave their lives for their wives and children, for their homes and farms, for their own community - in doing so, they put their own instinct for self-preservation behind the greater good of the community. Even in those times when warriorhood degenerated into pure mercenary service, death in battle was still seen as something honorable and morally superior; even then, the idea of sacrifice, in the narrower sense, was alive, because comrades died for the honor of the corps and for the flag that flew before it. The concept of the flag encompassed all the virtues that are sacred to soldiers: bravery, honor, loyalty to their leader and to their comrades in arms.

The highest honor was reserved for the soldier's death in those times when it was necessary to realize a great idea - the warrior then felt that he was carrying out a higher mission. The soldier saw his heroic death not only as an unavoidable obligation; death appeared to him as a God-given destiny that meant more to him than an honorable deed; pain and sorrow were transformed in him into the proud, uplifting feeling of belonging to the chosen few who were allowed to sacrifice the last and highest for the idea. “Dulce et decorum est, pro patria mori,” Horace began - “We win or die here, the sweet death of the free,” echoed E.M. Arndt's almost two millennia later.

The greatest and most sublime idea at all times has been that of the freedom and independence of one's own people - only when this prerequisite is fulfilled can a people fully develop and accomplish the great cultural tasks to which it has been called to by the Almighty. This was once the case when Leonidas and his three hundred gave their lives for Greek freedom at Thermopylae; it was repeated when Roman legionaries died for the greatness of the empire for centuries; it was celebrated during the German resurrection of the Frederick era, in the wars of liberation, the wars of unification, and in the World War. This is the deepest meaning of the heroic struggle for the preservation of the newly created Greater German Reich, which we are experiencing today and which finds its expression in the words: “Germany must live, even if we must die!”

There are two things that have always given freedom fighters the strength to make this greatest sacrifice: one is the “thirst for glory and honor” inherent in every noble human being - it is not for the sake of external honors that this most powerful of all great feelings inspires him, but solely the ardent desire to achieve more than others, to perform deeds that are of decisive importance for the overall success:

*“How sweetly the silver tone of glory sounds to the beating heart,*
*And immortality is a great thought, worthy of the sweat of the noble.”*

The other source of strength is rooted in religion - it does not strive solely for the survival of one's own name in the mouths of future generations, but manifests itself in the belief in the survival of the soul in the hereafter; for this reason, for many, the decision to give their lives for a great idea goes hand in hand with an inner purification. Those who are determined to make the ultimate sacrifice are firmly resolved to cast

off everything that is base, mean, and selfish, so that they may stand pure and noble before the Almighty when he delivers them to himself at the hour of death.

May this book fulfill its purpose of showing the heroic death for the fatherland in all its greatness and sublimity; may all who read it be filled with heartfelt gratitude toward those who gave their lives for the great cause of German freedom.

German Society for Defense Policy and Defense Studies
President von Cochenhausen

## To Ares

*"Ares, mighty warrior, charioteer in the golden home,*
*proud, armed with shield and armor, protector of cities,*
*spear-wielding guardian of Olympus, tireless and strong,*
*father of victorious Nike, helper of Themis,*
*conqueror of adverse maidens, leader of the most just men,*
*king of manly courage, son-in-law of the flaming wheel*
*under the stars of Aether, the seven-tracked one, who's*
*wild fiery horses always pull you along in the third circle:*

*Hear me, helper of men, giver of blossoming youth,*
*Shine down from on high your gentle light upon our*
*existence; grant us your power, the warlike power, that I*
*may banish bitter cowardice from my head,*
*And bend the deceitful impulses of the spirit of the soul,*
*To assert the sharpness of courage in my heart, which spurring*
*urges me to rush into the gruesome battle.*
*O blessed one, grant*
*faithful courage to dwell in gentle customs of peace,*
*to escape the fury of enemies, and the compelling fate of death."*

- **Homeric hymn to the gods**

## Proud Glory

*"When one must go there, to fall in the front line for the glory of his comrades, the glory of his city, his father and his clan, his chest pressed close to his shield, his shield buckled, his armor riddled with wounds: Such a man is mourned by old and young alike, and the entire city laments his loss. People point to his grave, its presence greeting children and grandchildren and even later generations with reverence. His proud fame never fades, his name never disappears, resting in the bosom of the earth he remains immortal and lives on, he who proved himself a hero in battle, who fought without wavering for his children and his country until Ares took him."*

**- Tyrtaeus**

*"Arise, citizens, all who are not yet mature*
*Or who have already grown gray,*
*Take care of your bodies, steel them for fresh deeds,*
*All of you, full of zeal, as duty commands,*
*To protect the city and the hearth of the gods of the land,*
*That the stars of their honor may never set,*
*and also our sons and Mother Earth, who has cared for us so kindly!*
*For when you were still small and played on the soft ground,*
*she took upon herself the burden of child-rearing*
*and raised you to be shield-bearing citizens*
*so that you would be ready for such service."*

**- Aeschylus**

*“One must know that war is a common thing and that strife is just - everything comes from strife and necessity.”*

*“War is the father of all things, the king of all things: it makes some gods, others men; it makes some slaves, others free.”*

*“Heroes who fall in battle are honored by the gods and by men.”*

*“Invisible harmony is stronger than visible harmony.”*

*“Opposites fit together, differences produce the most beautiful harmony, and everything arises through conflict.”*

*“One man is worth ten thousand to me if he is of noble character.”*

*“The people should fight for their laws as they would for their walls.”*

*“It can also be a law to obey the will of one man.”*

*“Everything happens according to the necessity of fate.”*

**- Heraclitus**

*"Wanderer, if you come to Sparta, proclaim there that you saw us lying here, as the law commanded."*

**- Simonides of Keos**

**An Excerpt from Pericles' Speech for the Fallen**

*"Such a downfall, especially as they suffered it, seems to me to demonstrate manly virtue, since it requires it in the first instance and seals it in the last; even in the case of those who proved themselves worse in other respects, it is just to credit bravery in the fight for the fatherland above all else: by making up for the bad with the good in this way, they have done more good overall than harm in individual cases.*
*None of these men, putting the pleasures of life first, allowed themselves to be softened by well-being, nor, in the hope of escaping poverty by becoming rich, did they shrink from facing the terrible; they desired to punish the enemy, and, considering the danger of death to be the most beautiful thing, they thought to defy it, to punish the enemy, and thereby to win the most beautiful prize. They left the invisible success to hope, but in the deed that lay before them, they believed they had to trust themselves and preferred battle and death to retreat and the salvation of their lives; they sought only to escape shameful slander. They paid for their deed with their lives, and on a very narrow razor's edge of fate, surrounded by the highest breath of glory, far from all fear, they departed.*
*Acting thus, they did their duty to the state, and they became heroes. The survivors, however, even if they may pray for a more merciful fate, should not think that they can show any less of a glorious spirit before the enemy; they should not consider the benefit of such a thing, which one can well demonstrate by telling you at length what you already know: how good and precious it is to defeat your enemies. Rather, seeing the power of your city day after day in such deeds, you should grow to love it; and if it seems great to you in terms of prestige, consider that bold men who knew what was necessary and acted as honor commanded them have achieved all this—men who, even when an undertaking failed, did not immediately decide to withdraw their strength from the state, but offered themselves as the most beautiful sacrifice. They gave their lives for the good of all, and gained for themselves immortal glory and the most exalted tomb; not only that, but also the other tomb in which their memory is preserved forever, unforgotten by all generations, on every occasion of speech or action. The whole earth is the tomb of illustrious men, and it is not only the inscription on the pillar in their homeland that marks it - even in a foreign land, the unwritten memory of their spirit lives on in the hearts of men, even more than that of their deeds.*

*Strive for this, then; and if you find happiness in freedom, and freedom in courage, then do not look around you in fear at the dangers of battle. It is not those who lead a miserable existence and see no hope ahead of them who have a better reason to risk their lives, but those who are threatened by a reversal of fortune and for whom the difference is great when misfortune strikes - a man is more painfully affected by the humiliation that comes from effeminacy than by death, which is no longer felt in the prime of life and shared hope."*

**- Thucydides**

**Germanic Warrior Culture**

*"The main strength of the Germanic tribes lies in their foot soldiers - that is why the cavalry and the foot soldiers fight in mixed formations. The foot soldiers are highly skilled at adapting to the rapid movements of cavalry combat. The best fighters are selected from among all the young men and placed at the front of the closed line. Their numbers are also precisely defined: one hundred men from each district. This is why this select group is called the "Hunderschaft" (hundred) - thus, what was originally a pure numerical designation has now become a title of honor.*
*The main body of the foot soldiers fights in a deep column. Retreating, if only to attack again later, is considered a sign of clever leadership, not cowardly fear. They also recover their fallen comrades after an indecisive battle.*
*Abandoning one's shield is considered the greatest disgrace. Anyone who has been so dishonored is not allowed to attend religious services or public assemblies - many a man who returned unscathed from war has put an end to his shame by taking his own life.*
*The Germanic tribes choose their kings from among the noble families and their military leaders from among the bravest warriors; however, the king does not have absolute power, and the leaders exert their influence more through their example than through their commands. If they are always present, if they distinguish themselves, if they always fight in the front line, then everyone follows them out of admiration. If someone is of particularly noble descent or if his ancestors have earned merit, he can be accepted into the retinue of a prince at a very young age. He is then placed under the command of stronger and more experienced men. Even a nobleman need not be ashamed of being a prince's follower: there are ranks in the retinue, determined by the prince himself; there is therefore great rivalry among the followers to take the top rank. The lords in turn seek to outdo each other with a strong and capable retinue, conferring dignity and bestowing power. To be surrounded by a large group of select young men is an honor in peacetime and a protection in wartime. Those who distinguish themselves by a numerous and brave retinue become known and famous not only among their own people but also among their neighbors - people seek their friendship through embassies, honor them with gifts, and often their mere name is enough to nip a threatening war in the bud.*
*To be outdone in bravery in battle is a disgrace for the prince; it is a disgrace for a follower to be less brave than the prince. But shame and disgrace for life are incurred by those who do not follow their leader into death.*

*To stand up for him, to protect him, and to attribute one's own heroic deeds to his glory is the noblest duty of a warrior - the prince fights for victory, the retinue for the leader."*

**- Tactius**

*"Possessions die,*
*clans die,*
*you yourself will die like them;*
*but the fame*
*of the brave*
*never dies.*

*Possessions die,*
*clans die,*
*you yourself will die like them;*
*I know of one thing*
*that lives forever:*
*the fame of the dead."*

**- Poetic Edda**

**The Flag**

*"Standard-bearer, I command you to take the flag on condition that you swear and vow to give your life for it; when your hand is harmed holding the flag, you shall take it in your other hand; if you are harmed in that other hand, you shall take the standard in your mouth and let it fly.*
*If you are overcome by the enemy and cannot keep it, you shall wrap yourselves in it and give up your lives rather than surrender your flag or lose it by force."*

**- Georg von Frundsberg**

**Whether Soldiers Can Also Attain Bliss**

*"I am acting here on the basis of whether the Christian faith, through which we are considered pious before God, can also tolerate that I am a soldier, that I wage war, that I strangle and stab, rob and burn, as one does to the enemy in warfare according to the laws of war; whether such deeds are also a sin or wrong, for which one must give account to God, or whether a Christian must do none of these deeds, but only do good, give love, and harm no one.*

*Even though it may not seem that strangling and robbing are works of love, and therefore a simple-minded person might think that they are not Christian works and should not be done by a Christian, they are nevertheless in truth works of love - just as a good doctor, when the disease is so bad and so great that he must cut off a hand, foot, ear, or eye in order to save the body, if one looks at the limb that he cuts off, it seems that he is a cruel and merciless man. But if one looks at the body he wants to save, one finds in truth that he is a good, faithful man and is doing a good Christian deed (as far as he himself is concerned). When I look at the military service, how it punishes the wicked, strangles the unjust, and causes such misery, it seems to be a very unchristian work and indeed contrary to Christian love - but when I see how it protects the pious, women and children, houses and farms, property and honor, and thereby maintains and preserves peace, I see how precious and divine this work is, and I realize that it also cuts off a leg or an arm so that the whole body may not perish: if the sword did not defend and keep peace, everything in the world would be destroyed by strife. Therefore, such a war is nothing more than a small, short strife that prevents eternal, immeasurable strife, a small misfortune that prevents a great misfortune.*

*That people write and say much about what a great plague war is, and that is all true. But one should also consider how much greater is the plague that war prevents - yes, if people were pious and loved peace, wars would be the greatest plague on earth. But where do you find that the world is evil, that people do not want to keep peace, that they rob, steal, kill, defile women and children, and take honor and property? Such universal strife in the world, in which no man could remain, must be controlled by the small strife called war or the sword. That is why God honors the sword so highly that He calls it His own order, and does not want anyone to say or think that men invented or instituted it; the hand that wields and strangles such a sword is then no longer a human hand, but God's hand, and it is not man, but God who hangs, wheels, beheads, strangles, and wages war - these are all his works and his judgments. In short, one must look at the office of war or the sword with manly eyes, why it strangles and does such terrible things; then it will prove itself to be an office that is divine in itself and as necessary and useful to the world as eating and drinking."*

**- Martin Luther**

**From the Adventurous Simplicius**

*"I let myself be used for both, on horseback and on foot, in party affairs, for I was a good horseman and quicker on my feet than any of my peers; and when there was trouble with the enemy, I rushed into it as if for pleasure and always wanted to be at the forefront. In a short time, I became known to friends and enemies alike, and so famous that both sides thought highly of me, entrusting me with the most dangerous missions and commanding entire parties for such ends - I thus began to strike like a Bohemian, and when I snatched something of value, I gave my officers such a generous share that I was allowed to continue this trade even in forbidden places.*
*General Count von Götz had left three enemy garrisons in Westphalia, namely at Dorsten, Lippstadt, and Koesfeld - I harassed them terribly, for I lay in wait for them with small troops, now here, now there, almost daily at the gates, and captured much good booty, and because I got through everywhere; the people thought I could make myself invisible and was as strong as iron and steel. I was feared like the plague, and thirty men were not ashamed to pass in front of me if they knew that only fifteen of them were nearby.*

*Finally, it came to the point where there was only one place left to take tribute, and I had to do it all myself; as a result, my purse became as big as my name. My officers and comrades loved their hunter, the most distinguished partisans of the enemy were terrified of me, and I kept the countrymen on my side through fear and love, for I knew how to punish my adversaries and reward those who did me the slightest service, giving away half of my spoils and spending the rest on reconnaissance. For these reasons, no party, no convoy, nor any undertaking by the opposing side was undertaken without my knowledge. I made their plans clear to myself and made my plans against them, and because I carried most of them out well with the help of luck, everyone marveled at my youth, so that even many officers and brave soldiers of the opposing party wanted to see me. In addition, I treated my prisoners with the utmost decency, so that they often cost me more than my booty was worth, and if I could show any of the enemy, especially the officers, whom I did not know, any kindness without violating my duty and my service to my master, I did not fail to do so. Such behavior would have quickly earned me promotion to officer, had my youth not prevented it; at my age, anyone who wanted to be a second lieutenant had to be of good noble birth. Besides, my captain could not promote me because there were no vacant positions in his company, and he did not want to give me one to anyone else because he would have lost more than a milk cow in me; I instead became a corporal. This honor of being preferred to old soldiers, even though it was a small thing, and the praise I received every day were like spurs that drove me to greater things; I speculated day and night on how I might accomplish something to make myself even greater; indeed, I could not sleep because of such foolish musings. And because I saw that I lacked the opportunity to prove through deeds what courage I had within me, I was troubled that I would not have daily opportunity to practice with weapons against the enemy. I often wished for the Trojan War or a siege like the one at Ostend, and I, a fool, did not think that the pitcher would go to the well so many times before it broke."*

**- H.J. Chr. von Grimmelshausen**

*“It is probably summertime,*
*But winter is coming.*

*Many a bold hero leads them into battle,*
*as I have been told.*
*On foot and on horseback,*
*as one could wish,*
*full of vigor.*
*The praiseworthy cavalry,*
*a whole band of worthy knights,*
*foot soldiers are also there.*

*There are many fine pieces in the field,*
*against the enemy's army.*
*We all stand guard, I report,*
*and show great honor.*
*We attack the enemy strongly;*
*there you see many a man*
*with arrows,*
*with spears*
*fighting freely in the manner of knights.*
*The praiseworthy cavalry comes quickly to our aid.*

*When the enemy is defeated,*
*we return to camp;*
*we see what is left at the end of the battle,*
*and have no rest.*
*The lamentations begin:*
*Where is my companion?*

*Buried!*
*We found*
*him dead, all alone.*
*It is of no use, it is certain,*
*he must be dead.”*

**- From the Thirty Years' War**

**Soldiers under the Great Elector**

*"We, Frederick William, by the grace of God Margrave of Brandenburg, etc., hereby proclaim and grant to all, but especially to our high and low military officers, together with our common soldiers on horseback and on foot, to hear in mercy. Having received various complaints concerning all manner of excesses and highly punishable acts, and considering it necessary to renew and declare our previously published edicts and ordinances, We have set forth our gracious will and intention in the following points and articles, so that no one may plead ignorance, and we have graciously ordered that they be published throughout our Duchy of Prussia by means of this open declaration. It is therefore Our gracious and solemn will and command:*

*- That all and every high and low military officer in their subordinate regiments, companies, and troops, both on the march and in quarters, shall maintain good and strict discipline and order, not only refraining from violence against anyone, but also refraining from all riding out, plundering, robbing, stealing, nighttime breaking and entering, taking of cattle, horses, or other things, oppression, extortion of travelers or whatever else it may be called, in towns, villages, and in the countryside, inside and outside the annual markets, or at the gates and guard posts, also on or near rivers, and not permit them, but if they should notice or learn of such acts committed by others, they shall, both of their own accord and without being asked, or at the request of the offended parties or the authorities of each place, pursue the perpetrators and seek to bring them into custody and to the punishment they deserve.*

*- No one shall ride out of his quarters without leave and a pass from his superior officer, nor shall he be permitted to stay in other places where he is not quartered.*

*- In the quarters where the soldiers are stationed, both officers and common soldiers shall be satisfied with what is assigned to them or paid to them by Us, and shall not take anything from the subjects under any pretext or name whatsoever, nor shall they take or demand anything from them under the pretext of a willing contribution or discretion, much less force or extort the slightest thing from them by violence.*

*- As for services, these shall be assigned to the officers with their pay and shall be included in their wages; the common people, however, shall enjoy the services in kind from their hosts and shall be satisfied with the same, salt, light, fire, bed, and lodging, including the beds, as well as a little vinegar and pepper, as good as the host has and can give. In the event that the host has no more than one bed for himself and his family, the quartered soldier is obliged to make do with pure straw or a straw sack.*
*In the quarters, both the officers and the common soldiers shall arrange themselves in such a way that the landlord can remain with them and continue to provide them with food.*
*No officer or soldier may compel his host to feed him or his servants, but the choice shall remain with the host, and each shall provide for himself when he receives his money.*

*- No one shall be allowed to compel anyone, whether local or foreign, traveler, resident or non-resident, unmarried journeymen, craftsmen, citizens, farmers, or their children, servants, or other servants, to perform military service, or to take them away by force from towns, villages, or the countryside, or from military roads, or from public fairs or markets, or to beat them, flog them, or treat them badly in any other way.*

*- Officers and soldiers shall not interfere in matters between the magistrate and subjects, nor shall they incite citizens and subjects against the authorities,nor interfere with their jurisdiction, or judicial authority, or with the magistrates' duties and accidents, or cause them harm, but rather shall protect them against the rebellious and disobedient and render them assistance at their request.*
*Should, which God in His mercy may prevent, a conflagration break out in any place, the officer shall command his soldiers and the magistrate his citizens to act in unity and harmony, and to help one another.*

*- Every soldier on the march shall live on his monthly pay and service while on the road, and shall not demand or extort the slightest amount of provisions or anything else without money.*

*And so that these Our orders may be more widely known, We have ordered them to be printed, publicly displayed in towns and villages, and read from the pulpits, and everyone shall obey them obediently and guard against harm and serious punishment. In witness whereof, We have signed this declaration with Our own hand and had it confirmed with Our electoral seal. Done at Cölln an der Spree on November 10th, 1673."*

**- Friedrick Wilhelm**

**Report to King Frederick I of Prussia After the Battle of Höchstädt (August 13th, 1704)**

**Wittislingen, August 16th, 1704**

*"As Your Royal Majesty is already fully aware of the considerable victory won on the 13th of this month against the French and Bavarians in the Höchstädt area, I will refrain from reporting much about it and disturbing Your Royal Majesty with further details. However, with your gracious permission, I feel obliged to commend to you the praiseworthy corps that stood under my command in this battle, as I saw with my own eyes how, first the infantry, which stood on the right wing so tall, and lower officers and common soldiers fought with fearless steadfastness against the enemy, withstood their force for several hours, and finally, by the grace of God and their strong fire, helped to throw them into such confusion that they could no longer resist their bravery, but fled with great haste and left us the field alone with this glorious victory.*

*Since, most gracious lord, such brave deeds stem from the heroic leadership of the commander, and since the common man generally takes greater courage from the praiseworthy example of his leader, the well-deserved praise is due in particular to His Highness the Prince of Anhalt, who, sparing himself not in the least, did not shy away from danger with the assistance of your great valor, and instead lead your subordinates wholeheartedly at all times, so that you are indeed entitled to a very large share of the victory for your immortal glory.*
*I therefore humbly and sincerely commend to Your Royal Highness the most praiseworthy bravery shown by your troops under my command, and assure you that I, for my part, will do everything in my power to preserve and support them, all the more so as I consider it a special privilege to be in the service of Your Royal Highness."*

**- Eugen, Prince of Savoy**

**Address by the King to His Generals on December 3rd, 1757 (before the Battle of Leuthen)**

The king had summoned all his generals and commanders to his quarters for a banquet, and it was here that he told them with sad solemnity, and sometimes with tears in his eyes:

*"Gentlemen! I have asked you to come here first of all to thank you for the loyal service you have rendered to your country and to me - I acknowledge them with the deepest emotion. There is hardly one among you who has not distinguished himself by some great and honorable deed. Relying on your courage and experience, I have made plans for the battle that I will and must fight tomorrow. Against all the rules of the art, I will attack an enemy almost twice as strong as we are, entrenched on high ground. I must do it, or all is lost; we must defeat the enemy or be buried before their batteries. That is what I think, and that is what I will do. If there is anyone among you who does not think so, let him ask for his discharge here and now. I will grant it to him without the slightest reproach."*

There was a pause on the part of the speaker, and a sacred silence fell upon the audience, broken only by tears of reverence and the most sacred love of country, which were held back with difficulty. Then the royal spokesman raised his voice again, and continued with a friendly smile on his face:

*"I suspected that none of you would abandon me; I am therefore counting entirely on your loyal assistance and on certain victory. Should I remain and be unable to reward you for what you will do tomorrow, our fatherland will do so. Go to the camp and tell your regiments what I have told you here, and assure them that I will take careful note of each one - the cavalry regiment that does not immediately throw itself à corps perdu into the enemy when ordered to do so will be dismounted immediately after the battle and turned into a garrison regiment. The infantry battalion that, no matter what it encounters, begins to falter, will lose its flags and sabers, and I will have the braid cut from their uniforms.*

*Farewell, gentlemen - tomorrow at this time we will have defeated the enemy, or we will never see each other again."*

**- Frederick the Great**

**Heed**

*Cowardly thoughts*
*Fearful wavering,*
*Feminine hesitation,*
*Anxious lamentation*
*Will not avert misery,*
*Will not set you free.*

*Defy all powers*
*Stand firm,*
*Never bow down,*
*Show yourself strong,*
*Call upon the arms*
*of the gods.*

**- Goethe**

**The Battle**

*Heavy and gloomy,*
*A storm cloud,*
*The march sways across the green plain.*
*To the wild, iron dice game*
*The field stretches out endlessly.*

*Glances creep downward,*
*The men's hearts pound in their chests.*
*Past hollow faces of the dead*
*The front line is driven forward by the major:*
*Halt!*
*And the regiment is bound by the rigid command.*

*The front line stands silently.*
*Magnificent in the glowing dawn*
*What is that flashing there from the mountains?*
*Can you see the enemy's flags waving?*
*God be with you, wives and children!*
*Merry! Do you hear the singing?*
*Drum rolls, whistles*
*Resound through the ranks;*
*How it roars away in a beautiful wild rhythm!*
*And roars through marrow and bone.*

*God be with you, brothers!*
*To meet again in another world!*

*Already it flashes away like lightning,*
*The thunder rumbles there,*
*The eyelashes flutter, here it crashes loudly,*
*The battle cry roars from army to army.*
*Let it roar in God's name,*
*Our breasts breathe more freely.*

*Death is loose—the battle is already raging,*
*Iron in the cloudy smoke of gunpowder,*
*The iron dice is cast.*
*The armies embrace each other closely,*
*Ready! they howl from platoon to platoon;*
*Thrown to their knees*
*The front ranks fire, many no longer stand,*
*Gaps are torn by grazing cartridge belts,*

*The man behind jumps on the torso of the man in front,*
*Devastation right and left and all around,*
*Battalions are mowed down by death.*

*The sun sets, the battle rages hot,*
*Black night broods over the army -*
*God be with you, brothers!*
*To meet again in another world!*

*Blood sprays high onto the neck,*
*The living mingle with the dead, feet*
*Stumble over corpses -*
*"You too, Franz?" - "Give my regards to my Lottchen,*
*The battle rages ever more fiercely; "Friend!*
*I will give your regards" - God! Comrades, look!*
*Behind us, like the Carthaginians, they leap! -*
*"I will greet your Lottchen, friend!*
*Sleep gently! Where the bullets rain*
*I will plunge into the fray."*

*Here and there the battle wavers,*
*The night broods darkly over the army,*
*God be with you, brothers!*
*To meet again in another world!*

*Hear! What is galloping past?*
*The adjutants are flying,*
*Dragoons are rattling into the enemy,*
*And his thunder is silent.*

*Victoria, brothers!*
*Terror tears the cowardly limbs,*
*His flag sinks—*
*And the fierce battle is decided,*
*The day looks victorious through the night!*

*Hear! Drum rolls, whistles sound*
*Voices already sing songs of triumph!*
*Farewell, brothers who remain!*
*We shall meet again in another world!*

**- Schiller**

**From Wallenstein's Camp**

*Say it yourselves! Is it not good for the lord*
*When his warriors hold themselves in high esteem?*
*Who else but his soldiers*
*Make him the mighty potentate?*
*Who else but they secure and preserve for him*
*His great renown throughout Christendom?*
*Let those who share his grace*
*And dine with him in his golden chambers*
*Take up his yoke upon themselves.*

*We have nothing of his splendor and glory*
*But toil and pain,*
*And what we hold dear in our hearts.*
*All great tyrants and emperors*
*Did so and were much wiser.*
*They did everything else in haste and disgrace,*
*They carried the soldiers on their hands.*
*The soldier must be able to feel himself.*
*He who does not live nobly and honorably*
*Should stay far away from the trade.*

*If I am to risk my life,*
*I must have something more to gain.*
*Or I will let myself be slaughtered*
*Like the Croat—and must despise myself.*

*Yes, honor is more important than life!*
*The sword is not a spade or a plow,*
*Those who would use it to till the soil would not be wise.*
*No blade of grass grows for us, no seed sprouts,*
*Without a homeland, the soldier*
*Must wander fleetingly on the earth,*
*He cannot warm himself by his own hearth,*
*He must pass by the splendor of the cities,*
*The cheerful, green meadows of the villages,*
*The grape harvest, the harvest wreath*
*He must watch from afar as he wanders.*

*Tell me, what does he have that is good and valuable*
*If the soldier does not honor himself?*
*He must have something to call his own*
*Or man will murder and burn.*

*God knows it is a miserable life!*
*But I would not trade it for another.*
*For I have traveled far and wide*
*And learned everything there is to know.*
*I have served the Spanish monarchy*
*the Republic of Venice*
*the Kingdom of Naples,*
*But fortune was not kind to me anywhere.*
*I have seen the merchant and the knight*
*And the craftsman and the Jesuit,*
*And none of their coats*
*Have pleased me as much as my iron doublet.*
*No! I cannot say that.*

*If anyone wants to make a name for himself in the world,*
*Let him strive and toil!*
*If he wants high honors and dignity,*
*Let him bow under the golden burdens;*
*If he wants to enjoy his father's blessing,*
*To care for his children and grandchildren,*
*Let him pursue an honest trade in peace.*
*I—I have no mind for that.*
*I want to live freely and die that way,*
*To rob no one and inherit nothing*
*And look away from the rabble below me.*

**- Schiller**

**Death for the Fatherland**

*You come, O battle! Already the young men surge*
*Down from their hills, down into the valley,*
*Where the slayers boldly advance,*
*Secure in their skill and arms, but more sure*
*Is the spirit of the young men that comes upon them,*
*For the righteous strike like sorcerers,*
*And their songs of their fatherland*
*Paralyze the knees of the dishonorable.*

*O take me, take me with you into the ranks,*
*So that I may not die a common death!*
*I do not love to die in vain, but*
*I love to fall on the sacrificial mound*
*For my fatherland, to bleed the blood of my heart*
*For my fatherland—and soon it will be done! To you*
*My dear ones! I come, who taught me to live*
*And to die, down to you!*

*How often in the light I thirsted to see you,*
*You heroes and poets of old!*
*Now greet kindly the humble stranger*
*The brother who lies below;*
*And messengers of victory come down: The battle*
*Is over! Live on, O fatherland,*
*And do not count the dead! Not one*
*For too many have fallen for you, my beloved!*

**- Hölderlin**

*“Through its own fault, from which only a few individuals can completely absolve themselves, the German nation has brought upon itself the fate that now puts weapons in your hands, and has unfortunately deserved what your victories will hopefully avert. Slackness, cowardice, the inability to make sacrifices, to dare—to value life above honor; to prefer to endure and slowly sink into ever deeper disgrace—such has been the character of the times and their politics. They are clinging to the dust, which considers any elevation above it to be exaltation, and make themselves ridiculous. Only by overcoming death, with a will that nothing, not even death, can bend or deter, is man worth anything; exaltation is the only thing that is venerable and truly human. Triviality is a lack of will, which is all too often linked to thoughtlessness.*

*What, then, is the character of the warrior? He must be able to sacrifice himself, for he is trained to do so. In him, true conviction, true honor, cannot fail—it is the elevation to something that lies beyond life and its pleasures. The unnerving moral teachings and pathetic sophistry must not find their way to you; even their greatest and most powerful followers should at least try to keep them away from you. Those who elevate themselves through speculation and contact with the ancients and the best of the moderns, and who look for like-minded people in the real world, where should they find them except among you? That effeminacy is bound up in every serious attempt to elevate it; laughter, which is their natural instinct, is the means by which they expand themselves again comfortably in the face of this unfamiliar and painful feeling. They laugh at the admonisher! May I succeed with you in expressing things of a higher world order for the first time without being immediately laughed at by those to whom I speak!*

*You have and will now have the opportunity to become certain of your worth. Before the battle and in consideration of the war: do not waver and want only war, but calculate all its successes firmly and prudently. In battle: keep a firm mind in the turmoil; think of victory, of your fatherland, and eternity even in death. No one else has this opportunity as you do: that is why you are enviable. By this example alone you will also influence others, bringing nerve and strength to the rest of the nation, which was dead and sluggish. The friend of humanity and of the Germans looks to you with hope - his hope, which lays prostrate, is directed toward you!”*

**- Fichte**

**To Archduke Carl**
**(When War Hesitated to Break Out in March 1809)**

*You step into the wheel of world's destiny*
*On the day of decision,*
*And your people listen, their eyes filled with fear,*
*To what fate will befall them.*

*But easily, O Lord, as easily as your life*
*Risk your sacred fatherland!*
*Throw down your banner when the crowds tremble,*
*In the thickest ranks of your enemies.*

*It is not victory that the Germans seek,*
*Helpless as they stand on the brink of the abyss;*
*If the battle only burns like a torch,*
*It is worth the corpse that goes to the grave.*

*Let him then sing in the dark night,*
*From the summit, already half climbed;*
*Lord! The tear will still shine with gratitude to you,*
*If only your sword takes revenge for it.*

**- Heinrich von Kleist**

**Confession**

*"I believe and profess that a people has nothing to hold in higher esteem than the dignity and freedom of its existence;*
*that it must defend that freedom with its last drop of blood;*
*that it has no more sacred duty to fulfill, no higher law to obey;*
*that the stain of cowardly submission can never be washed away;*
*that this cowardly poison passes into the blood of a people and is passed on to their descendants, crippling and undermining the strength of later generations;*
*that honor can only be lost once;*
*that the honor of the king and the government is one with the honor of the people and the only safeguard of their welfare;*
*that a people are invincible in the magnanimous struggle for its freedom under most circumstances;*
*that even the downfall of this freedom after a bloody and honorable struggle ensures the rebirth of the people, and is the core of life from which a new tree will one day take root.*

*I declare and affirm to the world and to posterity that I consider the false prudence which seeks to evade danger to be the most pernicious thing that fear and anxiety can inspire; that I would consider the wildest despair to be wiser if we were utterly unable, with manly courage, i.e., with calm but firm resolve and clear awareness of the danger;*
*that I will not forget the warnings of old and new times, the wise teachings of entire centuries, the noble examples of famous peoples in the frenzy of fear of our days, and that I will not sacrifice world history for the pages of a lying newspaper;*
*that I feel free from all selfishness, that I can confess every thought and every feeling in me to all my fellow citizens with an open mind, that I would feel only too happy to find a glorious death one day in the glorious struggle for the freedom and dignity of my fatherland!"*

**- Clausewitz**

**Theodor Körner to his Father**

**Vienna, March 10th, 1813**

*"I am writing to you this time on a matter which, I am confident, will neither surprise nor alarm you. I recently gave you a hint about my plans, which have now come to fruition - Germany is rising; the Prussian eagle is awakening in all loyal hearts, with its bold beating wings, the great hope of German, or at least North German, freedom. My art yearns for its fatherland—let me be its worthy disciple!*

*Yes, dearest father, I want to become a soldier; I want to joyfully cast aside the happy and carefree life I have gained here in order to fight for my fatherland, even if it costs me my blood. Do not call it recklessness, folly, or wildness! Two years ago, I would have let you call it that, but now that I know what bliss can ripen in this life, now that all the stars of my happiness shine down on me in beautiful mildness, now it is, by God, a worthy feeling that drives me, now it is the powerful conviction that no sacrifice is too great for the highest human good, for the freedom of one's people. Perhaps your fatherly heart says: my Theodor is here for greater purposes, he could have achieved more important and significant things in another field, he still owes humanity a great debt. But Father, my opinion is this: no one is too good to die for the freedom and honor of his nation, but many are too bad to do so! Has God really given me more than ordinary intelligence, which I learned to use under your care? Where is the moment when I can make better use of it? Great times call for great hearts, and if I feel the strength within me to be a rock in this stormy sea of nations, I must go out and face the storm with my chest held high. - Should I echo the jubilation of my victorious brothers in cowardly enthusiasm? - Should I write comedies for the theater of mockery when I believe I have the courage and strength to speak in the theater of seriousness?*

*I know you will have to endure much anxiety, and my mother will weep - may God comfort her, for I cannot spare you this! I have boasted of the bosom of fortune until now, and it will not abandon me yet. That I risk my life is not worth much; that this life is adorned with all the garlands of love, friendship, and joy, and that I nevertheless risk it, that I throw away the sweet feeling that lived in me in the conviction that I would cause you no anxiety, no fear, that is a sacrifice that can only be offset by such a price.*
*I will leave here on Saturday or Monday, probably in friendly company; perhaps Humboldt will send me as a courier. In Breslau, the gathering place, I will meet the free sons of Prussia, who have gathered in beautiful enthusiasm under the banners of their king. Whether on foot or on horseback, I have not yet decided, and it depends solely on the amount of money I can raise. I don't know anything definite about my position here yet; the prince will probably grant me leave, and if not, there is no seniority in art, and if I return to Vienna, I have the secure promise of Count Palffy, which offers even more advantages in economic terms. Toni also proved her great noble soul to me on this occasion - she is crying, but the end of the campaign will dry her tears. Her mother should forgive me her pain; those who love me should not misunderstand me, and you will find me worthy of you."*

*Your Theodor*

**To My Army!**

**Wrocław, March 17th, 1813**

*"You have repeatedly expressed your desire to fight for the freedom and independence of your fatherland - and now the moment has come! There is not a single member of the people who does not feel it; young men and men are rushing voluntarily from all sides to take up arms. What is their free will is your duty, you who belong to the standing army; you, who are sworn to defend the fatherland, are justified in demanding what they offer.*
*See how so many are leaving behind everything that is dearest to them in order to give their lives with you for the cause of the fatherland - feel, therefore, your sacred duty twice over! Remember them all on the day of battle, in deprivation, hardship, and inner discipline! Let the ambition of the individual—whether he be the highest or the lowest in the army—disappear in the whole: he who feels for his country does not think of himself.*
*Let the selfish be despised wherever the common good is at stake. To them, give everything now. Victory comes from God! Show yourselves worthy of His high protection through obedience and the fulfillment of your duty. Courage, perseverance, loyalty, and strict order shall be your glory. Follow the example of your ancestors; be worthy of them and mindful of your descendants!*

*Certain rewards will come to those who distinguish themselves, deep shame and severe punishment to those who forget their duty!*

*Your king remains with you always, with him the crown prince and the princes of his house. They will fight with you—they and all the people will fight with you, and at our side will come a brave people who have come to our aid and to Germany's aid, a people who have won their independence through great deeds. They have trusted their ruler, their leaders, their cause, their strength—and God was with them, as he will be for you! For we too are fighting the great battle for the independence of the Fatherland.*

*Trust in God, courage, and perseverance shall be our watchwords!"*

**- Friedrich Wilhelm**

**From the Catechism for German Soldiers and Men of the Armed Forces**

*"I will teach you what true soldierly honor is: A brave soldier and warrior shall fight for his honorable and just king and lord, and for his kingdom and glory, and endure even unto death.*

*A brave soldier should always keep God before his eyes and carry God's commandments deep in his heart, so that no force can compel him to act against God's commandments.*

*A brave soldier should love justice and freedom above all else, and joyfully draw his sword for them; for God does not approve of any other war, and He will one day demand an accounting for every drop of innocent blood shed.*

*A brave soldier should not flaunt external honors or puff himself up with vanity; rather, loyalty to his country should be his honor, and his quiet courage his highest adornment. Cursed is the honor of the man who fights against his fatherland and goes to war for a deceitful tyrant against freedom; woe to him who undertakes such a thing! God in Heaven will punish him, whether he be prince or servant, for his finger has shown that He will deliver us, and His strong arm shows that He does not love arrogance.*

*Therefore, German warriors, let it be your honor to love your fatherland more than money, German freedom more than life, and godly virtue more than all earthly goods. Let it be your honor that no one doubts that God will deliver the brave and the righteous, that no one despairs of dying in such a holy battle."*

**- Ernst Moritz Arndt**

**Army Order!**

**H.Qu. Löwenberg, September 1st, 1813**

*"Silesia is contested by the enemy! To your bravery, brave soldiers of the Russian and Prussian armies under my command, to your efforts and endurance, to your patience in enduring hardship and deprivation, I owe the good fortune of having wrested a beautiful province from the hands of a greedy enemy.*

*In the battle at Katzbach, the enemy defiantly confronted you; courageously and with lightning speed, you emerged from behind your hills. You spurned attacking them with musket fire; you advanced unstoppably; your bayonets hurled them down the steep slopes of the raging Neisse and Katzbach rivers. Since then, you have waded through rivers and swollen rain-swollen streams - some of you suffered from a lack of food, as the impassable roads and the lack of transport prevented supplies from reaching you. You fought against the cold, the rain, deprivation, and in some cases a lack of clothing, yet you did not complain - you pursued the defeated enemy with determination. Thank you for your commendable conduct! Only those who combine such qualities are true soldiers.*

*103 cannons, 250 ammunition wagons, the enemy's military hospitals, his field smiths, his flour wagons, 1 division general, 2 brigade generals, a large number of colonels, staff officers, and other officers, 18,000 prisoners, 2 eagles, and other trophies are in your hands; the rest of those who faced you in the battle at Katzbach are so terrified by your weapons that they will no longer be able to bear the sight of your bayonets. You have seen the roads and fields between Katzbach and Bober: they bear the marks of your enemies' terror and confusion.*

*Let us sing a song of praise to the Lord of Hosts, through whose help you have defeated the enemy, and thank Him in public worship for the glorious victory He has given us. A threefold bonfire shall mark the hour you devote to prayer - then seek out your enemy once again!"*

**- Blücher**

**Army Report of the Prussian Army from the Lower Rhine**

**Battle of June 16th at Ligny**

*The Prussian army stood on the heights between Brye and Sombreffe, and beyond Sombreffe; it held the villages of Ligny and St. Amand heavily occupied in the front. However, only three army corps were assembled: the fourth, which had been stationed between Liège and Hanut, had been somewhat delayed in its movement by various accidents and had not arrived. Nevertheless, the field marshal decided to strike, as Lord Wellington had already sent a strong detachment of his army and all his reserves stationed near Brussels to support him, and the fourth army corps was expected.*

*At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the battle began - the enemy fielded over 130,000 men, while the Prussian army numbered 80,000. The village of St. Amand was attacked first by the enemy and taken after fierce resistance. The enemy then turned against Ligny - Ligny is a very large, solidly built village along the Ligny stream, and here began a battle that ranks among the most stubborn ever fought. Usually, villages are taken and retaken, but here the fighting raged for five hours in the village itself, moving forward and backward only in small spaces. Fresh troops poured into the battle from both sides without ceasing. Each side had positioned large masses of infantry behind the section of the village they occupied, which continuously fed the battle and were in turn constantly reinforced from the rear; from the heights on both sides, the fire of nearly 200 guns from both armies was directed at the village, which had caught fire in many places at once. Gradually, the battle had spread along the entire line, for the enemy had also deployed many troops against the third army corps at Sombreffe; meanwhile, the decision was being made at Ligny.*

*There were signs that the tide was turning in favor of the Prussian forces, for part of the village of St. Amand had been recaptured from the French by a battalion under the personal command of the field marshal, and a hill that had been lost by our side after the loss of St. Amand had been retaken.*
*At Ligny, however, the battle raged with equal fury. Now was the moment when the appearance of the English or the arrival of the Fourth Army Corps would decide the outcome; for if the Fourth Army Corps arrived, the field marshal would immediately launch an attack with his right wing, which would not fail to succeed.*

*News then arrived that the division of the English army intended to support us had itself been violently attacked by a French army corps and had only managed to hold its position at Quatrebas with great effort; the fourth army corps also failed to arrive, and so we were left to resist the great superiority of the enemy alone.*
*It was already well into dusk, and the battle at Ligny continued to rage just as fiercely and just as indecisively. The distress grew amid futile longing for help. All units were in action or had fought, and there were no fresh troops at hand.*
*Suddenly, a detachment of enemy infantry, which had crept around the village on one side under cover of darkness, while on the other side several regiments of cuirassiers broke through, attacked our masses positioned behind the village from the rear. This surprise attack was decisive, but it only became so when our cavalry, which was positioned behind the village on the heights, was repulsed by repeated attacks from the enemy cavalry.*

*Our infantry, positioned behind Ligny, although forced to retreat, did not allow itself to be thrown into confusion by the surprise of the enemy in the darkness, which magnified every danger, or by the fact that it was surrounded on all sides. Formed into masses, it cold-bloodedly repelled all cavalry attacks and withdrew calmly to the heights, from where the march against Tilly was slowly continued. Due to the sudden breakthrough of the enemy cavalry, several of our guns had taken directions in their hasty retreat where they ran into defiles in which they became lost -*
*fifteen pieces fell into enemy hands in this way. A quarter of a mile from the battlefield, the army regrouped, and the enemy did not dare to follow. The village of Brye remained occupied by us throughout the night, as did Sombreffe, where General Thielmann had fought with the 3rd Army Corps.*

*At daybreak, it withdrew to Gembloux, where the 4th Army Corps under General Bülow had arrived during the night. The 1st and 2nd Corps moved behind the defile of Mont St. Guibert the next morning. Our losses in dead and wounded were heavy; we lost none of our prisoners except for some of our wounded.*

*Even if the battle was lost, it was lost as honorably as possible; our troops had fought with bravery that left nothing to be desired; therefore, no one's courage was broken, for confidence in their own strength had not been shaken.*

*On that day, the field marshal was in great danger - a cavalry attack, in which he himself was at the forefront, had failed. As the enemy cavalry pursued rapidly, a shot pierced the field marshal's horse. However, the shot did not slow the horse down; instead, the pain drove it to convulsive leaps, until it suddenly fell dead to the ground at full speed. The field marshal lay beneath the dead horse, stunned by the violent fall. The enemy cuirassiers rushed forward in pursuit; our last horsemen had already passed the field marshal, and only one adjutant remained with him; having jumped from his horse, he stood beside him, determined to share his fate. The situation was dire, but Heaven was watching over us - the enemies rushed past in wild haste without noticing the field marshal, and they rushed past him again when our men had driven them back. Only now was the field marshal pulled out from under the dead horse with great difficulty, whereupon he mounted a dragoon's horse.*

**Battle of the 18th**

*It was half past four in the afternoon. The very difficult passage through St. Lambert had considerably delayed the march of the Prussian columns, so that only two brigades of the 4th Army Corps had arrived in their concealed positions - the moment of decision had arrived and there was no time to lose.*
*The Prussian commanders did not let the moment slip away; they decided without delay to attack with what they had at hand, and so General Bülow suddenly broke through with two brigades and a cavalry corps, right behind the enemy's right flank. The enemy did not lose their composure, instead immediately turning their reserves against us, and a murderous battle began. The battle lasted a long time and continued with equal ferocity against the English.*

*At about 6 o'clock in the evening, news arrived that General Thielmann with the 3rd Army Corps had been attacked by a considerable enemy corps at Wavre, and that fighting was already underway for possession of the town. However, the field marshal was not shaken by this; the decision of the day lay*

*before him and nowhere else; only a battle fought with equal ferocity and continued with fresh troops could win the victory, and if victory was won here, any disadvantage at Wavre would be easily overcome. Therefore, all columns remained in march.*

*It was half past seven, and the battle was still raging; the entire Fourth Army Corps and part of the Second under General Pirch had gradually arrived. The French fought desperately, but gradually uncertainty became apparent in their movements, and several guns were seen to be withdrawn.*
*At that moment, the first columns of General Zieten's army corps appeared at their attack points near the village of Smouhen on the enemy's right flank and immediately set to work - now the enemy was finished. Its right wing was attacked from three sides; it retreated; the troops advanced on it from all sides at a run and to the beat of drums, while the entire British line began to move.*
*The attacking side of the Prussian army presented a particularly beautiful sight. The terrain here was terraced, so that several levels of gunfire could be developed one above the other, between which the troops descended in beautiful order into the plain, while new masses continually unfolded from the forest behind them on the heights.*
*With the retreat of the enemy, things remained bearable until the village of Plancenoit, which was defending the rear and had been the target of several repulsed attacks and much bloodshed, was finally taken by storm. Now the retreat turned into a rout, which soon engulfed the entire French army and swept everything away with increasing ferocity.*

*It was nine-thirty. The field marshal now gathered the senior officers and ordered that every last man and horse be called upon to pursue. The vanguard of the army quickened its pace. Pursued relentlessly, the French army soon fell into complete disarray. The highway looked like a great shipwreck - it was strewn with countless cannons, powder wagons, vehicles, rifles, and debris of all kinds; more than nine bivouacs were driven away by those who had wanted to rest a little and had not expected such a rapid pursuit; in some villages they tried to resist; but as soon as they heard the drums and bugles, they fled or threw themselves into the houses, where they were killed or captured... The entire march was a constant search for the enemy in the villages and cornfields.*
*In Genappe, the enemy had barricaded themselves with cannons, overturned ammunition wagons, and vehicles; as we approached, we suddenly heard a noise and commotion in the town and immediately came under heavy rifle fire from the entrance; a few cannon shots, a hurrah—and the town was ours! ...*
*In the wildest confusion, barely 40,000 men, the remnants of the entire army, some without rifles, fled through Charleroi with only 27 guns of its entire, previously numerous, artillery.*
*The enemy has fled far behind its fortresses, the only protection of its borders, which are now being inexorably crossed by our armies.*

*At three o'clock in the afternoon, Napoleon sent a courier from the battlefield to Paris with the news that victory was no longer in doubt; a few hours later, he had no army left.*

*We do not yet have precise information about the enemy's movements; it is enough to know that two-thirds of the enemy army has been killed, wounded, or taken prisoner, including Generals Monton, Duhesme, and Compans, and that 300 cannons and over 500 carts of ammunition are already in our hands…*

*At the center of the French line, at the highest point, lies a farmstead called La Belle Alliance; it is visible from all around like a beacon; all Prussian columns were marching toward it. This is where Napoleon was during the battle; from here he gave his orders; from here he wanted to win the victory, and here his defeat was decided; here, finally, in the darkness, by a gracious stroke of chance, the field marshal and Lord Wellington met and greeted each other as victors.*
*In memory of the alliance now existing between the British and Prussian nations, which had been ordained by nature, the union of the two armies, and the mutual trust between the two commanders, the field marshal ordered that this battle should be called the Battle of Belle Alliance.*
*Headquarters, Merbes le Chateau, June 20, 1815. By order of Field Marshal Prince Blücher.*

**- General Count von Gneisenau**

**To Prince Blücher of Wahlstatt**
**and His Family**

*In patience and war*
*In defeat and victory*
*Conscious and great!*
*Thus he tore us*
*Free from our enemies.*

**- Goethe**

**From the Law on Compulsory Military Service of September 3rd, 1814**

*The general efforts of our loyal people, without exception or distinction, have brought about the liberation of the fatherland in the war that has just been happily concluded; only in this way can the freedom and honorable position that Prussia has earned be secured for all time.*

*The institutions that brought about this happy success, and whose preservation is desired by the entire nation, shall therefore form the fundamental laws of the state's military constitution and serve as the basis for all military institutions; a legally organized armed force is the surest guarantee of lasting peace. The older laws that have hitherto existed regarding the supplementation of the army are therefore hereby repealed and replaced by the following:*

*1. Every native, as soon as he has reached the age of 20, is obliged to defend his fatherland.*

**Military Virtue of the Army**

*"It differs from mere bravery, and even more from enthusiasm for the cause of war; the former is certainly a necessary component of the latter, but just as it is a natural human trait that can arise in a warrior as part of an army through habit and training, it must also have a different meaning for him than it does for other people. It must lose the urge for unbridled activity and exertion of strength that is inherent in the individual and subordinate itself to higher demands: obedience, order, rules, and method. Enthusiasm for the cause gives life and greater fervor to the martial virtue of an army, but it is not a necessary component of it.*

*War is a specific business (and however general its relationship may be, and even if all the men of a people capable of bearing arms were engaged in it, it would still remain such), distinct and separate from the other activities that occupy human life. To be imbued with the spirit and essence of this business, to awaken and absorb the forces that are to be active in it, to penetrate the business completely with the mind, to gain practice, confidence, and ease in it, to become completely absorbed in it, to pass from being a human being into the role assigned to us in it: this is the military virtue of the army localized within the individual.*
*No matter how carefully one imagines the citizen being trained alongside the warrior in one and the same individual, no matter how much one nationalizes wars and how much one imagines them moving in a direction opposite to that of the former mercenary system, one will never be able to abolish the individuality of the conduct of business, and if one cannot do so, then those who pursue it will always, and as long as they pursue it, regard themselves as a kind of guild, in whose orders, laws, and customs the spirit of war is preferentially fixed - and so it will indeed be. Even with the strongest inclination to view war from the highest standpoint, it would therefore be very wrong to look down on the 'esprit de corps' that may and must exist to a greater or lesser extent in an army. This esprit de corps provides, in what we call the martial virtue of the army, a kind of binding agent between the natural forces at work within it. The crystals of martial virtue adhere more easily to the esprit de corps.*

*An army that maintains its usual order in the most destructive fire, that is never frightened by imaginary fears and contests every inch of ground, proud in the knowledge of its victories, even in the midst of the ruin of defeat does not lose the strength to obey, does not lose respect and trust in its leaders, whose physical powers are strengthened by deprivation and exertion like the muscles of an athlete, which regards these efforts as a means to victory, not as a curse resting on its banners, and which is reminded of all these duties and virtues by the short catechism of a single idea, namely the honor of his country, - such an army is imbued with the spirit of war.*
*One can fight excellently like the Vendéens and achieve great things like the Swiss, the Americans, and the Spanish without developing this martial virtue; one can even be happy at the head of armies like Eugene and Marlborough without enjoying their assistance; one should not therefore say that a successful war is inconceivable without it, and we draw particular attention to this in order to individualize the concept we are establishing here, so that ideas do not become blurred in general and one does not believe that martial virtue is ultimately everything, for this is not the case. The martial virtue of an army appears as a definite moral power that can be disregarded, whose influence can therefore be estimated—as a tool whose power can be calculated.*

*

*Having characterized it in this way, let us try to say what can be said about its influence and the means of acquiring it.*
*Military virtue is to the parts what the genius of the commander is to the whole - only the whole can be led by the commander, not each individual part, and where he cannot lead the part, the military spirit must become its leader. The commander is chosen on the basis of his reputation for outstanding qualities, the more distinguished leaders of large groups after careful examination; but as this examination becomes less rigorous the lower one descends, and to the same extent we must therefore rely less on individual aptitude; what is lacking in this must be replaced by military virtue. It is precisely this role that is played by the natural qualities of a people prepared for war: bravery, skill, hardiness, and enthusiasm. These qualities can therefore replace the martial spirit and vice versa, from which the following conclusion can be drawn:*

*1. Military virtue is unique to standing armies; they need it most. In cases of popular armament and in war, it is replaced by natural qualities, which develop more quickly.*
*2. Standing armies against standing armies can do without them more easily than standing armies against armed populations, because in the latter case the forces are divided and the parts are more left to their own devices. But where the army can be held together, the genius of the commander takes on a greater role and replaces what the spirit of the army lacks. In general, therefore, military virtue becomes all the more necessary the more the theater of war and other circumstances complicate the war and disperse the forces.*

*The only lesson that can be drawn from these truths is that when an army lacks this power, one should seek to organize the war as simply as possible, or double one's efforts in other areas of military organization, and not expect the mere name of a standing army to achieve what only the army itself can accomplish.*
*The martial virtue of the army is therefore one of the most important moral forces in war, and where it has been lacking, we see either one of the others replacing it, such as the superior greatness of the commander replacing the enthusiasm of the people, or we find effects that do not correspond to the efforts made - we see how much this spirit, this solidity of the army, this refinement of the ore into shining metal, has already achieved in the Macedonians under Alexander, the Roman legions under Caesar, the Spanish infantry under Alexander Farnese, the Swedes under Gustav Adolf and Charles XII, the Prussians under Frederick the Great, and the French under Bonaparte; one would have to deliberately close one's eyes to all historical evidence if one did not want to admit that the wonderful successes of these generals and their greatness in the most difficult situations were only possible with such a powerful army.*

*This spirit can only arise from two sources, and these can only produce it jointly. The first is a series of wars and fortunate successes; the other is the activity of the army, often driven to the utmost effort. Only in this does the warrior learn to know his strengths. The more a commander is accustomed to demanding from his soldiers, the more certain he is that the demand will be met. The soldier is just as proud of overcoming hardships as of surviving dangers. This seed can not only flourish in the soil of constant activity and effort, but also only in the sunlight of victory - once it has grown into a strong tree, it can withstand the greatest storms of misfortune and defeat, and even the sluggish calm of peace, at least for a*

*time. It can therefore only arise in war and under great generals, but it can certainly last, at least for several generations, even under mediocre leaders and during considerable periods of peace.*

*This expanded and refined esprit de corps of a scarred, hardened band of warriors should not be compared to the self-confidence and vanity of standing armies, which are held together merely by the glue of service and drill regulations. A certain grave seriousness and strict rules of service can preserve the martial virtue of a troop for longer, but they do not create it; they therefore always retain their value, but one should not overestimate them. Order, skill, good will, even a certain pride and an excellent morale are qualities of an army educated in peace, which must be valued, but which have no independence. The whole holds the whole together, and as with glass that has cooled too quickly, a single crack causes the whole mass to crumble; in particular, the best morale in the world is all too easily transformed into despondency and, one might say, into a kind of boastful bravado born of fear: the French 'sauve qui peut'. Such an army can only achieve something through its commander, not through itself. It must be led with double caution until, little by little, through victory and effort, strength grows into the heavy armor. Be careful not to confuse the spirit of the army with its mood!"*

**- Clausewitz**

*"Many years later, when some of his views had changed, he told me during a walk in the vicinity of Naumburg how, one day after one of these grueling hikes, his 'heart almost broken with pity,' he came to a small town through which a military road led. As he turned a stone wall and took a few steps forward, he suddenly heard a roar and thunder, and a magnificent cavalry regiment, splendidly expressing the courage and exuberance of a people, flew past him like a glowing storm cloud. The noise and thunder grew louder, and his beloved field artillery followed at full speed—oh, how it pained him not to be able to throw himself on a horse, but to have to stand idly by this wall! Finally, the foot soldiers came running - their eyes flashed, their steady footsteps sounded like heavy hammer blows on the hard ground. And when this whole procession rushed past him, heading for battle, for death, so wonderful in their vitality, in their fighting spirit, so completely the expression of a race that wants to conquer, rule, or perish—'then I felt for the first time, my sister, that the strongest and highest will to live is not expressed in a miserable struggle for existence, but as a will to fight, as a will to power and supremacy!' 'But,' he continued after a while, 'I also felt how good it is that Wodan puts a hard heart in the breast of a general, for how else could they bear the enormous responsibility of sending thousands to their deaths in order to bring their people, and thus themselves, to power.'"*

- **Nietzsche (according to a report by his sister)**

*“The commander of an army who is about to carry out an operation whose outcome is uncertain, or the statesman who has to conduct important political affairs, will not be deterred by the concern that he may be brought before a court martial or summoned to appear before the city court in Berlin. He bears a completely different responsibility before God and his conscience for the lives of thousands of his people and the welfare of the state; he has more to lose than merely his freedom or his fortune.”*

*“I reply that I still hold exactly the same position today as I did then, and that I am still firmly convinced that a strong Germany in the heart of Europe is the greatest guarantee of peace. But, gentlemen, a strong Germany! As long as we are threatened daily with a war of revenge in writing and in words by a neighboring state, we must not forget that only the sword can keep the sword in its sheath, and that under such circumstances disarmament means war for us, the war that we wish to avoid and that will hopefully be avoided through the wisdom of the French government.”*

*“Military service is not productive work, but it aims to achieve and does achieve the security of the state, without which all productive work is impossible; it trains the younger generation in order, punctuality, cleanliness, obedience, and loyalty—qualities that will not be lost in their later productive work.”*

*“No, gentlemen, let us protect above all the honor and security of the empire; let us preserve the long-awaited unity of the nation that has finally been achieved; let us continue to keep the peace as long as we are not attacked, and let us protect peace abroad as far as our powers extend! We may not stand alone in this endeavor, but we will find allies - this poses no threat to anyone, but rather guarantees peaceful conditions in our part of the world, provided that we are strong and well-equipped. With weak forces and armies that can be dismissed at a moment's notice, this goal cannot be achieved; the fate of every nation rests solely in its own strength.”*

**- Moltke**

*“We will never wage aggressive wars, ambitious wars, wars of conquest. What would we conquer? We could be given a whole lot of things, but we would not take them, and we would be even less inclined to risk the lives and property of our children and relatives and the healthy bones of our compatriots in order to conquer them. Conquest is completely alien to the German character, and we will not engage in such a bizarre policy as the French have pursued for centuries. The Germans are not at all suited to a policy of conquest and prestige; our militia and our family men are not there for that. They would defend themselves like bears when attacked in their lair, but they would be just as unwilling to conquer as bears are.”*

*“German soldiers know how to combine bravery with humanity.”*

**- Bismarck**

*“War and courage have accomplished more great things than charity - it is not your compassion, but your bravery that has saved the unfortunate thus far.*
*What is good? you ask. To be brave is good.*
*Rebellion is the nobility of slaves. Let your nobility be obedience - let your commands themselves be obedience!”*

**- Nietzsche**

*“The task of the commander is to destroy or completely defeat an enemy, even a stronger one, whose position, destination, and intentions are unknown. He must persistently pursue the path he has chosen to achieve this goal, overcome all obstacles with energy, quickly find remedies for incidents, strive for success to the utmost, and steadfastly endure the blows of fate; to accomplish this, he must be imbued with something superhuman, supernatural, call it genius or something else - he must be aware of the assistance and protection of a higher power.*

*Caesar is certain of this assistance when he crosses from Brindisi to Dyrrhachium in a small boat in stormy weather and calls out to the despondent helmsman, ‘Quid times, Caesarem vehis?’ Alexander considers himself a son of Jupiter. Constantine wins ‘in hoc signo.’ Cromwell believes he is a chosen instrument. Wallenstein searches the heavens to see if the stars are favorable to him. Napoleon feels certain of victory at Borodino when the sun breaks through the clouds at Austerlitz. Even Frederick the Great hopes that his grenadiers will achieve the almost impossible victory by singing ‘Gib, daß ich tu’ mit Fleiß, was mir zu tun gebietet' (Give me the strength to do what I must do). William I sees the most brilliant victory in world history as ‘a turn of events by divine providence’.*
*If the aspiring commander relies solely on his divine calling, his genius, and the support and protection of a higher power, his victory will be ill-fated - he must prepare for his high calling through hard work and strive to achieve clarity of mind and intellect. Alexander tamed Bucephalus and practiced with weapons, but he also sat at the feet of Aristotle. Caesar was a philosopher, orator, and historian. Even today, no high school student can achieve anything without having read a few books on the Gallic Wars. Gustav Adolf spoke seven languages. Frederick the Great mastered all fields of knowledge except orthography and the German language. Napoleon is said to have been weak in Latin as a student in Brienne, but he had ‘du feu pour l'algébre’ (a passion for algebra). Moltke lacked only the academic years and the titles of doctor and professor to be a proper scholar.*

*But how much knowledge is required of a military commander! He must not only know how to lead an army to victory; he must also create, arm, equip, train, clothe, and feed it. There may be others who can take on these tasks for him, but they will not thank him for it. A military commander cannot simply place himself at the head of any army. He must have his own army... But an army, even the best, is not enough to wage war. War is only a means of politics. To make it effective, preparation by the statesman is necessary... The general must therefore also be an outstanding statesman and diplomat. And he must also procure the enormous sums of money that war devours.”*

*“Weapons and combat techniques have changed completely over the past 2,000 years - people no longer attack each other with short swords, but fire at each other from thousands of meters away; the bow has been replaced by the recoilless rifle, and the slingshot by the machine gun. Slaughter has been replaced by surrender. However, the conditions of large-scale battle have remained unchanged.”*

**- Schlieffen**

**Langemarck**

**Headquarters, November 11th, 1914**

*West of Langemarck, young regiments broke through the first line of enemy positions to the chant of "Deutschland, Deutschland über alles" and captured them - approximately 2,000 French line infantrymen were taken prisoner and six machine guns were captured.*

**The Fighting Spirit in the German Army**

*"The immediate sight of the enemy has an immensely stimulating effect on bravery, an effect that gives it some of the glamour of conventional ideas. The hardest and most difficult thing for everyone is to overcome the instinct for self-preservation in the oppressive, eerie emptiness of today's battlefields, where the enemy is invisible; but the sight of the enemy strikes like a bolt of lightning into the powder keg of bitterness and anger that has been piled up in the soul during the attack - at last one sees the one who has caused so much fatigue, hunger, cold, fear, and exertion. The idea of the fatherland, sudden enthusiasm flares up at the sight of the foreign uniform—at last one can grab the enemy by the throat and pay him back for everything—rage-filled enthusiasm flashes up with the force of an explosion. The whipping effect of the 'hurrah' ignites and drives the storming line forward into the enemy like a hammer. It is then that all-consuming contempt comes over the man, and with dogged fury and unbridled savagery, everything is directed at the enemy, whose instinct for self-preservation turns into a scream, into paralyzed horror, into unconditional surrender or senseless flight. The attacker's raging fury is uncontrollable and demands liberation, action, blood.*

*In some people, the fighting spirit reaches the highest level of bravery, which towers above the bravery of the masses just as genius rises above talent and leaves the average far behind... These are the people whose every nerve and brain fiber glows with a spirit of enterprise, whose tendons and muscles twitch with recklessness and daring, whose souls, at the moment of decision, irresistibly drive them to ruthless action and, with the unfailing certainty of a dark primal instinct, enable them to do the right thing—people who do not have these powers in their hands, who are in the hands of these powers."*

**- Franz Schauwecker**

**Comrade-in-Arms**

*It is beautiful, as it will never be again:*
*When comrades in arms are together.*
*The soul speaks, the mouth is silent,*
*but they feel the sacred bond.*

*Anyone who has stood in the blast of a shell*
*has already been called brother by his heart.*
*They are together—that is all that is needed.*
*And even if they only look at each other's faces,*
*into the eyes that now smile again:*
*Once they saw the most gruesome things;*
*they know that their arms and lame hands*
*have gripped the butt of their rifles a thousand times.*
*The feet that carried them through mud and rock*
*into the splintering battle.*
*The back rested on the ground,*
*in the blood of many a comrade.*
*And the heart that once beat so fast,*
*that bore all the pain and suffering,*
*took in the bitter years*
*the whole fatherland within itself.*

*When comrades in arms are together*
*it is as beautiful as anything you will ever find*
*for whoever has stood in the blast of a shell*
*has already been called brother by the heart*
*the soul sings, even if the mouth is silent*
*no one is a stranger in the sacred bond.*

**- Heinrich Lersch**

**A Worker's Belief**

*We have always known our love for you,*
*But we never gave it a name.*
*When we were called, we left silently,*
*Not on our lips, but in our hearts, with the word:*
*Germany!*

*Our love was silent, it brooded deep within.*
*Now its time has come, it has risen high.*
*For months it has shielded your house in the east and west*
*And it strides calmly through storm and weather:*
*Germany!*

*That no foreign foot may tread on our native soil,*
*If a brother dies in Poland, another lies wounded in Flanders.*
*We all protect the sacred border of your country.*
*Our blossoming lives for your barest tree:*
*Germany!*

*We have always known our love for you,*
*But we have never given it a name.*
*Only your greatest danger revealed it in all its glory,*
*That your poorest son was also your most loyal.*
*Think of it, O Germany!*

**- Karl Bröger**

**Letter from a Fallen Student**

**The Arras Front, April 20th 1917**

*"You know that the situation here was anything but rosy when we arrived, for the English had advanced 8 kilometers in one go. In front of us lay a thin veil of infantry, and the English were where our heavy artillery was; behind our section, the only thing that had been saved was five heavy howitzes, without ammunition, and a few field guns. So, we attacked. The enemy had tanks, cavalry, and large groups of infantry; we were completely dependent on our rifles and machine guns. But from the very first moment, there was complete silence: 'If they were real men, the Germans would have broken through long ago.' That was the general impression.*
*With a calmness and confidence that is uniquely German, reinforcements arrived day and night. After two or three days, we had assembled such a mass of artillery that the English were unable to attack; miraculously, even under heavy fire and despite losses, the mood remained confident and calm. This is a profound reason for you at home to be deeply grateful, not to us—for we are doing our duty and are not creating our own mood—but to God. You know that the coming days will demand rivers of blood from us, it must demand them. Those who fight for such a noble cause must give everything they have. Who knows how soon our last hour will strike, or that of a loved one. What then? I ask you earnestly for one thing: do not worry about me. Our zest for life has never been as strong as it is now - and when the ultimate sacrifice is demanded of us, let us refrain from unnecessary lamentation and collapse, for war is a test of faith, especially in such moments. We cannot help but be sad, but we can only do two things: turn our pain into a blessing for ourselves and be an example to others."*

- **Karl Schenkel, Candidate of Theology, Marburg, born June 18th, 1892 in Murr; killed May 5th, 1917, near Douai.**

**Last Wish**

*“If I die on the open sea,*
*grant Gorch Fock a sailor's grave!*
*Don't take me to the graveyard,*
*But sink me down deep into the sea!*

*Sailmaker, sew me up!*
*Helmsman, a word from the Bible!*
*‘Boy, take off your cap!’*
*And then meaningfully, overboard!”*

- **Gorch Fock, killed on May 31st, 1916 in the Battle of Jutland**

**Memorial Stone for Fallen Members of the Marine Corps at the Cemetery in Bruges**

*We lay together in rows,*
*we stood together in life,*
*so the same cross and the same adornments*
*were placed on our graves.*

*Now we rest from the heat of battle*
*and wait confidently for eternity.*

*“We dead pilots remain victorious through our own efforts alone;*
*people, fly again, and you will be victorious through your own efforts alone.”*

- **Words of wisdom on the Aviator Memorial at the Wasserkuppe**

*“The training of men requires such a solid education from the fighter that in a life-threatening situation, i.e., in a fight for his own survival, he does many things ‘mechanically,’ which warfare must relentlessly demand of him in order to destroy the enemy and, in doing so, to act in a way that exposes him to extreme danger. A fighter placed in a closed mass is carried along by the mass; he feels, so to speak, the eyes of the mass upon him and feels secure and carried by it; it also gives him emotional support. He acts as a member of this mass under mass psychosis. The situation is completely different for a fighter who is alone, dependent on himself, and has to fulfill his duties on an empty battlefield - he has no support; he must have the mental strength to overcome his own will to survive. Discipline will help him in this. However, it does not consist solely of ‘standing to attention’ or training for war; both of these can be practiced in peacetime by a coward or by someone who is ‘dissatisfied’, and they are perhaps displayed more frequently as a form of deception. Discipline is also mental fortification and training to persevere and to act bravely, fearlessly, even heroically, while enduring extraordinary exertions in the tensions of combat, as total war inevitably brings with it. It must be based on racial and national awareness, love for one's people and homeland, the feeling of being inextricably linked to both and rooted in both, on speaking the language of the people's soul, and on the knowledge that one must sacrifice one's own transitory life for that of the immortal people... I have no doubt that it must be easy to keep alive in German soldiers, as in German men in general, the deep feeling that they must secure the life of the immortal people by sacrificing their own lives.”*

*“The commander is on his own - his is a lonely fate. No one can see into his heart, no matter how dignified and intelligent the men under him may be.*

*Commanding and leading in the field, indeed, even being a soldier, places the highest demands on character - this is often more important than knowledge. The armed forces do not need strivers and sycophants, but people of strong character! The higher and more responsible the position, the stronger and more reliable the character of the person holding it must be. Only such characters can earn and claim trust. Without such a character, a commander, a leader in the field, is unthinkable. This cannot be emphasized enough.*

*The commander must be capable of the unexpected - he is either born with it or he is not. The will to win must radiate from him and permeate the army and the people, leading them to heroic deeds.”*

**- Ludendorff**

*“In the strength of mind to bear this responsibility even in bad times and never—neither elated nor despondent—to lose equanimity and calm, I always saw one of the most essential and indispensable qualities of a leader: to always be mindful that in the vicissitudes of life, good fortune tends to be followed by adversity, and vice versa.*
*I held fast to this belief!*
*When successes were achieved, I allowed everyone to enjoy their share of them; in misfortune, I took sole responsibility and calmly accepted reproaches. Only those who are equally insensitive to praise and blame can persevere in a position of leadership.*
*Anxious concern for the glory of one's own name and the applause of the crowd binds every decision - the leader at the top must renounce the thirst for glory with the same coldness as a Buddha renounces earthly pleasures, if he does not want to burden himself with emotional turmoil that robs him of clarity of judgment and determination.*
*Allowing his subordinates to enjoy success and the awareness of having worked for it is not only a dictate of justice, but also a dictate of wisdom.*
*A responsible leader cannot do everything alone. His work can best be compared to the management of a large, risky enterprise, whether technical, industrial, or financial, which requires the cooperation of many forces.*
*The conduct of a great war requires a large, well-organized apparatus; it is the task of the leader, the chief, to create and maintain this apparatus, to deploy all forces correctly according to their abilities, and to allow them to work.*
*Anyone who, in a vain attempt to present himself as the sole decision-maker, fails to make use of capable forces or undermines their enthusiasm for work, damages the cause and is guilty of a reprehensible breach of duty.”*

*“Even if the means of warfare change and each new war requires adaptation to these changes, the broad outlines of warfare always remain the same: clear vision, determination and perseverance, concentration of all resources on a single goal, exploitation of all forces in organic cooperation, steadfastness in the face of misfortune, restraint in success, unyielding will until the decision is made; no wavering, no vacillation, no hesitation, no stopping halfway!”*

**- Conrad von Hötzendorf**

*“‘You speak of your honor - it lays in leading the army well,’ wrote the great king to his brother, the heir to the throne, on August 12th, 1757. The letter is worth reading in more ways than one - nowhere else is the special honor of the soldier described more succinctly and clearly. The same honor is accorded to the commander and the man on the front line, whom, in his own words, the king had the honor of leading.*
*The honor of the soldier lies in the fulfillment of his duty, in every position and situation, regardless of whether the former is high or low, the latter easy or difficult, everyday or extraordinary. Even in peacetime, there is much quiet heroism, much overcoming, much perseverance, which is often more difficult than the fresh deed in war - but in war, honor demands the ultimate sacrifice from a man: the conscious dedication of his life to his duty as a soldier.*
*A soldier must be able to stand before the judge - perhaps this judge is only the strict but just superior and leader, perhaps it is the judgment of history, but the judge in one's own heart speaks more harshly than either of them, for a man is the ultimate, highest judge of his own honor.*
*What ‘we hold dear in our hearts’ is still the soldier's highest possession, enabling him to endure ‘hardship and pain’.*
*The higher the soldier rises on the military ladder, the heavier his duty becomes; not in itself, for it only changes form, and no one can do more than his duty, but because the responsibility for those under him is added to his own duty and honor. The responsibility grows to enormous proportions; now it is a matter of life and honor for hundreds, for thousands—now it is a matter of the state.*
*That is why the king becomes harder and harder the higher the guilty party stands who, in his judgment, has not done his duty. Herein lies the new heavy duty of the leader: the duty to be hard for the sake of honor. In this harshness toward others lies the greatest harshness toward oneself; demanding sacrifice is harder for the true leader than making his own sacrifice. The king makes this sacrifice of his own harshness because his duty demands it, and this duty was called Prussia.”*

**- Seeckt**

**From Hindenburg's Political Testament**

*The guardian of the state, the Reichswehr, has to be the symbol and solid foundation for this structure; it has to embody the old Prussian virtues of unquestioning loyalty, simplicity, and camaraderie as the best foundation for the state.*
*After the collapse, the German Reichswehr continued the high tradition of the old army in an exemplary manner.*

*The Wehrmacht must always and at all times remain an instrument of the supreme leadership of the state, which, unaffected by all domestic political developments, strives to fulfill its high duty of defending the country.*

*When I return to my comrades up there, with whom I fought on so many battlefields for the greatness and honor of the nation, I will urge the young generation: Prove yourselves worthy of your ancestors, and never forget that if you want to secure peace and prosperity for your homeland, you must be prepared to give your all for this peace and for the honor of your country. Never forget that your actions will one day become tradition.*

*All the men who built up and expanded the Reichswehr deserve the gratitude of the field marshal of the World War and their later commander-in-chief.*

*In foreign policy, the German people had a path of suffering to walk - a terrible treaty weighed heavily upon them and threatened to bring our nation to collapse as its effects grew. For a long time, the world around us did not understand that Germany had to live not only for its own sake, but also for the sake of Europe as the standard-bearer of Western culture.*
*Therefore, the shackles that bound us could only be loosened gradually, without arousing overwhelming resistance; if some of my old comrades did not understand the inevitability of this path at the time, history will judge more fairly how bitter, but also how necessary, some of the state acts I took were in the interests of preserving German life. In harmony with the growing inner recovery and strengthening of the German people, it was possible to strive for and achieve, on the basis of our own national honor and dignity, progressive and—God willing—beneficial cooperation in the issues affecting the whole of Europe.*
*I thank Providence for allowing me to experience the hour of renewed strength in my twilight years; I thank all those who, in selfless love for their country, have worked to bring about Germany's resurgence.*

*My Chancellor, Adolf Hitler, and his movement have taken a decisive step of historic significance toward the great goal of uniting the German people in inner unity across all class and social distinctions. I know that much remains to be done, and I sincerely hope that the act of national uprising and ethnic unity will be followed by an act of reconciliation that encompasses the entire German fatherland.*
*I take leave of my German people in the firm hope that what I longed for in 1919 and what slowly matured to January 30th, 1933, will ripen into the full fulfillment and completion of our people's historic mission.*
*With this firm belief in the future of the Fatherland, I can close my eyes in peace.*

*"...No negotiations, no conferences, and no agreements have given us the natural right to German unity. We had to take this right for ourselves, and we could only take it thanks to your existence, my soldiers!*

*Thus, these two greatest institutions of our people have two equal tasks to fulfill: National Socialism educates our people internally to become a national community, and the Wehrmacht educates these same people to defend this national community against external enemies!*
*Thus, my soldiers, you have already been entrusted with a task in this new Reich - its fulfillment has earned you the love of the German people. They have placed their trust in you and know that they can rely on their sons in uniform, for you have the best weapons available today, you receive the best training, and I know that you also have the best character!*
*You fit into the eternal, imperishable front of German soldiering - I have had the opportunity to convince myself of this more than once in recent months. I have seen it on the training grounds, on the shooting ranges, on the parade grounds, and I have gained the reassuring knowledge that the German nation can once again look upon its soldiers with satisfaction.*
*For this I would like to thank you!*
*However, we do not all serve for the sake of thanks, praise, or reward, unless, that is, this thanks, this praise, and this reward lie in what is most precious to us in this world: our people and our German Reich!*

*Germany—Sieg Heil!"*

**- Adolf Hitler, Reich Party Congress 1938**

*"...If I have called up this armed forces, and if I now demand sacrifices, if necessary all sacrifices from the German people, then I have the right to do so, because I am just as ready today as I was before to make my own personal sacrifice; I demand nothing more from any German man than what I myself have been willing to do voluntarily at any time for over four years! There shall be no privations in Germany that I do not immediately take upon myself!*
*From now on, my whole life belongs to my people - I want to be nothing else now than the first soldier of the German Reich! I have thus once again donned the uniform that was once most sacred and dearest to me. I will only take it off after victory, or I will not live to see that end!*

*Should anything happen to me in this struggle, my first successor will be Party Comrade Göring; should anything happen to Party Comrade Göring, the next successor will be Party Comrade Hess. You would then be bound to him as Führer with the same blind loyalty and obedience as you are to me!*
*Should anything happen to Party Comrade Hess, I will, by law, appoint the Senate, which shall then choose the most worthy, that is, the bravest, from among its members!*

*As a National Socialist and as a German soldier, I go into this fight with a strong heart - my whole life has been nothing but a single struggle for my people, for its resurrection, for Germany. Above this struggle has always stood only one confession of faith in my people!..."*

**- Adolf Hitler at the Reichstag, September 1st 1939**